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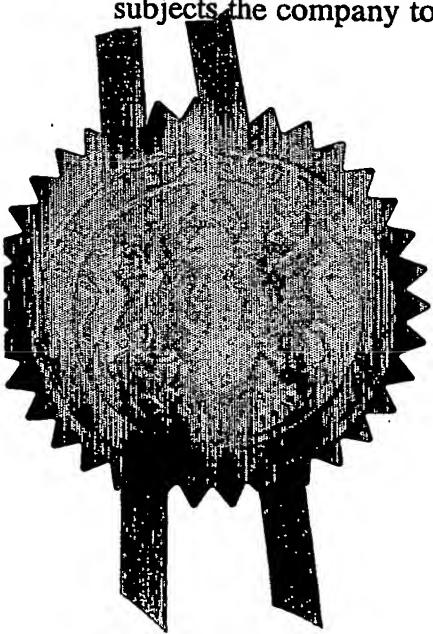
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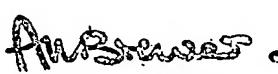
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06AUG02 E738724-1 D02893

P01/7700 0.00-0218160.0

The Patent Office

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Your reference

2078

Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0218160.0

- 6 AUG 2002

Full name, address and postcode of the or of
each applicant (*underline all surnames*)

Patents ADP number (if you know it) 8439812001

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the
country/state of its incorporation

Title of the invention

Oven Liner

Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom
to which all correspondence should be sent
(including the postcode)

NIGEL BROOKS CPA

HILL HAMPTON

EAST MEON

PETERSFIELD

HAMPSHIRE GU3 2 1QN

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

463001

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Statement of inventorship and right
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Signature

Date

05/08/02

2. Name and daytime telephone number of
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NIGEL BROOKS CPA (01730) 823647

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OVEN LINER

The present invention relates to an oven liner, in particular a liner for a microwave oven.

5

In commercial microwave ovens, which are more heavily used than domestic microwave ovens, spits of food can become deposited around the oven. Unless these are scrupulously cleaned off at the end of the day, they can build up to the extent that they desiccate and cause arcing and/or other damage. Subsequent repairs can be
10 expensive.

Lightweight, disposable oven liners have been proposed. However, such a liner is of little practical use in a heavily used commercial oven.

15 The object of the present invention is to provide an improved microwave oven liner.

According to the invention there is provided a microwave oven liner comprising:

20 • a roof, a floor, a back and two sides,
all of food grade plastics material and of sufficient rigidity for automatic washing, the whole being sized to fit removably in a microwave oven.

Normally:

25 • the roof will be shorter at the front, which is open than the floor, to allow air to circulate for steam withdrawal from the oven, and
• the roof will be apertured for withdrawal of circulated air.

30 Preferably, the aperturing of the roof will be a series of holes acting as a coarse filter of spilt food.

A particular feature of the preferred embodiment is an upstanding lip across the front of the floor, to retain spilt liquid.

Conveniently, the outside corners between the roof and the other panels and the floor and the other panels are chamfered or rounded to allow ready insertion of the liner into the oven without interference with oven corner seals.

5

Whilst the liner can be of sheet bent and adhered together, it is preferably an injection moulding.

Conveniently the plastics material of the liner is transparent or translucent.

10 The preferred liner is of polypropylene.

To help understanding of the invention, a specific embodiment thereof will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

15 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional microwave oven;

Figure 2 is a similar view of a liner of the invention sized to fit in the oven.

Referring to the drawings, a conventional microwave oven 1 has a glass panelled door 2 (shown open) with a cavity 3 lined with steel side and back walls 4, a 20 ceramic floor 5 and a thin plastics moulding roof 6. A gap 7 is provided at the front between the door and the roof, whilst a further aperture 8 is provided in the roof. These are for air circulation by a non-shown fan. A silicon seal 9 seals the floor to the side walls. Non-shown microwave emitters and stirrers are provided above the roof and below the floor.

25

A liner 11 of the invention is an injection moulding of approximately 5mm thick elements, namely:

a roof 12,

a floor 14,

30 a back 15 and

two sides 16.

The moulding is of food grade polypropylene, such that the liner can be washed in a commercial dishwasher.

The liner is sized to be a sliding fit in the oven. Due to its modest wall thickness, it reduces the capacity of the oven by a small amount only, yet is sufficiently rigid for washing.

5 The roof is shorter 17 at the front than the floor to allow air circulation. Further, the roof is apertured, also for air circulation, with a series of small c. 4mm bores 18 registering with the roof aperture 8.

A lip 19 is provided across the front of the floor to retain split liquid.

10 The external corners 20 are chamfered to clear the silicone seal 9 for instance.

Whilst it might have been expected that the liner would de-grade the cooking performance of the oven, we have surprisingly found that no appreciable loss 15 of performance is experienced when the liner is of 5mm thick, food grade polypropylene.

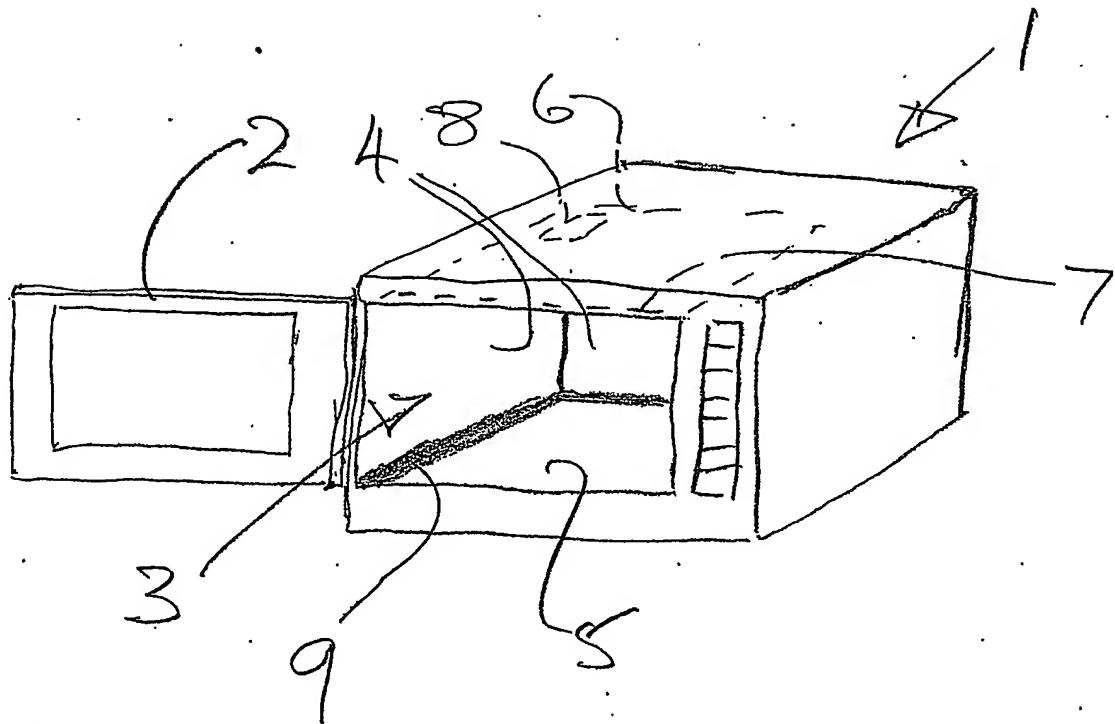


FIGURE 1

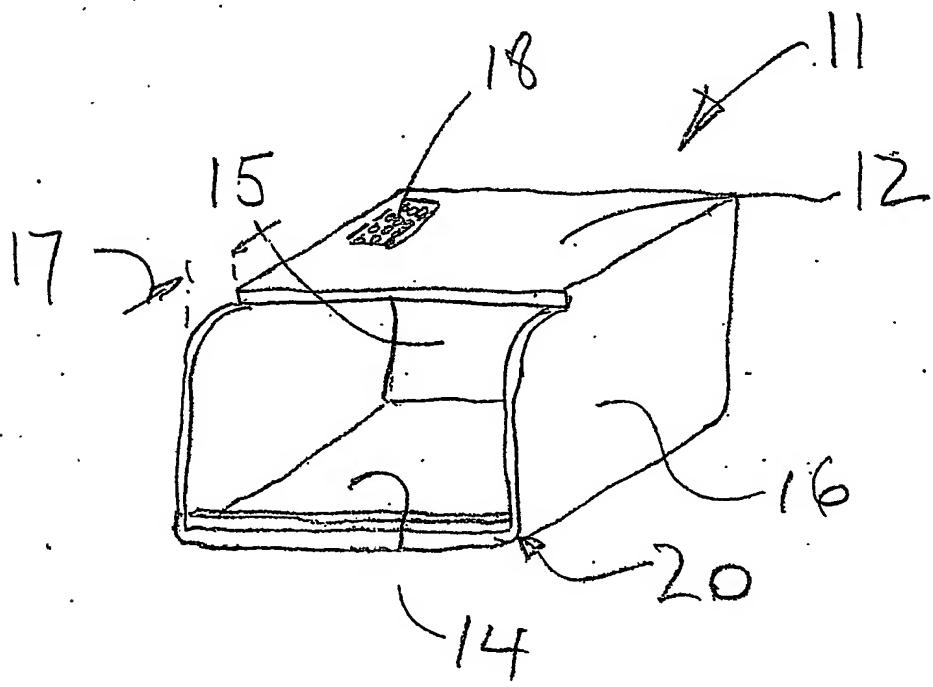


FIGURE 2



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